

U.S.S.N. 08/398,555

Filed March 3, 1995

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**growth effector molecules.

wherein one end of each tether is covalently linked to the substrate and each growth effector molecule is covalently linked to a distal end of a tether so that the growth effector molecule cannot be internalized by cells attached to the substrate, and the growth effector molecules are attached to the substrate in a concentration effective to enhance the rate of target cell growth without internalization of the molecules; and

maintaining the contacting cells and composition under conditions and for a time sufficient to cause the cells to grow,

wherein the step of bringing into contact comprises administering the composition to a patient in need of cell growth.

Please cancel claims 18-31.

**Remarks**

Claims 1-32 are pending. Claim 14 has been amended. Claims 1-13 and 14-31 have been canceled. Claim 14 was amended to incorporate the limitations of canceled claim 13, as suggested by the Examiner.

***The claims***

Claims 14-17 and 32 are directed to methods for enhancing cell growth in a patient or for testing the effect of a compound on tissue that utilize a biocompatible substrate, polymeric tethers, and growth effector molecules. The growth effector molecules are covalently linked to